

REMARKS

The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 5 and 6 which, together with claims 2 and 3, remain in the application. The Applicant notes the examiner's response to Applicant's arguments filed September 29, 2005 indicating that the claims did not specifically state that the products are "different" products. The claims as amended now make this clear, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the examiner's rejection.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Skinner teaches a system whereby buyers can search for multiple amounts of the same product/service by entering a single search query, with the system ranking the search results by the suppliers that have the greatest capability to supply multiple amounts of the same product/service or best pricing/terms for the particular product. Paragraph [0010], lines 22-25 of Skinner refer to ranking of suppliers for "each defined supplier role," not by capability to fulfill all supplier roles. See also paragraph [0043] step 302 – "the user identifies a product of interest." Skinner is directed to the need to interact with multiple suppliers where the various different products desired are not all available from a single vendor, as discussed in Paragraph [0002] of Skinner. While Skinner may disclose a system for purchasers to make price and supply quantity capability comparisons with respect to multiple vendors with respect to a particular products, there is no suggestion in Skinner of vendor ranking by capability to fill an entire order of multiple different products. Paragraph [0008] of Skinner which describes the method, consistently refers to searches for single products. Skinner does not teach or suggest a method or system for purchasers to search for multiple different products/services via a single search query for the entire multiple product/service order, and receive search results ranked by the vendor that can best fill the entire multiple product/service order, which is what the Applicant's invention provides. This novel capability greatly improves simplicity and efficiency in the procurement of products/services in that purchasers can more

easily evaluate and select the best vendor for a multiple product/service order, also maximizing the potential savings from getting the best "package price" for an entire order.

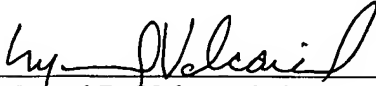
As such, Skinner does not teach or suggest all of the Applicant's claim limitations, as amended, and *prima facie* obviousness is not established. For the same reasons, claims 1-3 and 5 are not unpatentable over Skinner in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,799,156 ("Shavit et al."). The Applicant respectfully submits that its invention as claimed is not obvious in view of the patent publications cited by the examiner. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that examiner withdraw the rejections of the Applicant's claims.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the application and claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Nonetheless, should the examiner still have any comments, questions or suggestions, the examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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